

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NH ROUTE 9 HILLSBOROUGH BYPASS OPENS TO TRAFFIC
NEW FIVE-MILE HIGHWAY IMPROVES EAST-WEST TRAVEL

Traffic is flowing on the new NH Route 9 Hillsborough Bypass. The five-mile stretch of highway that bypasses downtown Hillsborough was officially opened to traffic at 12:05 pm today (August 7, 2002).

Additional paving and paint striping work were required in order to complete the transition to the new section of highway.

The \$33 million project was dedicated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday (August 6) that included remarks by Governor Jeanne Shaheen, US Senator Robert Smith, Executive Councilor Peter Spaulding and Hillsborough Board of Selectmen Chairman Rob Buker. The ceremony concluded with a caravan that included an antique car and Hillsborough fire and police vehicles.

"It's been a long time coming. You know what a difference it will make to your community," Governor Shaheen told the dozens of people who gathered for the ceremony at the new NH Route 9/202 interchange.

The Hillsborough Bypass project, which is expected to address traffic safety and congestion issues in the Hillsborough area of the Route 9 corridor, took four years to build. It includes nine new bridges and two new interchanges. Nearly two million cubic yards of material was excavated during the project and 72,000 tons of asphalt was used to create the riding surface. About 17 acres of wetlands were impacted, while a total of 58 acres of wetlands were created, enhanced or preserved.

An additional landscaping contract for the project will be advertised in November, with the work expected to take place in the spring of 2003.